

Spring-time Maintenance Dredging of Outer Grays Harbor Starting

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SEATTLE – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District, announces that annual maintenance dredging at the outer entrance to Grays Harbor is scheduled to begin a 15-day dredging assignment on or about April 1. The area of initial dredging includes the Entrance / Point Chehalis and Bar channel reaches. The Government dredges operate 24 hours a day and seven days per week.

The federal government hopper dredge vessel ESSAYONS will remove shoal material from the federal channel to promote safe navigation. Maintenance dredging in this area is done annually. Dredged material from the Bar channel is placed beneficially at the South Beach nourishment site, thanks to the cooperation of the local crab fishermen who relocate some of their fishing gear temporarily for the hopper dredge access and disposal operations.

Next, the federal government hopper dredge vessel YAQUINA will start dredging operations at the Grays Harbor Entrance and Point Chehalis Channel reach, beginning a 28-day dredging assignment on or about April 24. Dredged material will be placed at the existing Half Moon Bay nourishment sites and the Point Chehalis open water disposal site managed by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources.

One of the Seattle District's primary missions is to maintain existing deep-draft navigation channels and harbors in the Pacific Northwest. These areas consistently shoal with sandy marine sediments. Therefore, dredging is performed to maintain the depths needed to promote safe, reliable navigation. A significant component of Washington's economy depends on navigation and commerce, which in turn depends on dredging the state's waterways, such as Grays Harbor.